



**For immediate release  
June 3, 2008**

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## **DCR SEEKS ARTISTS FOR “IRON RANGER” DONATION CONTAINERS IN THE PARKS**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is once again seeking artists to paint wildlife and landscape scenes on more than 100 Iron Rangers, the metal contribution containers located in state parks across the Commonwealth.

The 42-inch-high, steel containers are designed to accept financial contributions from park users that are used to benefit the state parks system through the Conservation Trust. The artist program is open to the public, and submissions are due by June 20, 2008. Submissions will be juried by members of DCR's Design Committee, and winners will be notified by June 25, 2008. The work must be completed by Sept. 5, 2008.

The 153 Iron Rangers located in 94 properties across the state collect donations made by many of the more than 10 million visitors that visit the state parks, beaches, and forests each year. They generate a total of about \$19,000 annually, which helps fund educational programs and conservation projects in the parks. When painted, the Iron Rangers attract further attention and patrons contribute more generously. In some cases, donations have more than doubled over the previous year after an Iron Ranger has been painted.

The Iron Ranger Painting Program provides an opportunity for artists to display their work in a DCR park while helping to enhance the look of the Iron Rangers, and thus, of the park itself. Although artists are not paid for their work, they are invited to sign the back of the Iron Ranger and leave business cards and brochures with the property supervisor or district manager to distribute upon request. News releases, identifying the artist and including a picture of the Iron Ranger, also will be sent out to the press once this year's program is complete. Numerous articles and photos about the program and the artists have resulted each year.

“This program is an important part of DCR's larger effort to improve park service and enhance the visitors' experience while promoting partnerships in the parks,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “By facilitating contributions to the Conservation Trust, the Iron Ranger program also highlights DCR's message of ‘It's Your Nature.’ ”

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The Conservation Trust, established by the Legislature in 1990, receives contributions that are used to advance the recreational and conservation interests of the Commonwealth. The Trust provides a way for individuals, businesses, and foundations to contribute directly to the recreational and conservation interests of Massachusetts. The tax-deductible contributions can be designated for a particular park or parks, or for a program of the donor's choice.

Further information on the artists program, including evaluation criteria and a list of locations, is on the DCR website: [www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/trust/ironRangers.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/trust/ironRangers.htm). Also at that site are pictures of the painted Iron Rangers and the names of the artists who painted them.

DCR will supply the paint, and paintings will be done on-site. The Iron Rangers will be cleaned by DCR staff members before the painting. The containers will need two primer coats, one base coat, and two finish coats.

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us)*